

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON IMPEACHMENT

REF: MOSCOW 12063

1. PRAVDA AUGUST 7 PRINTS RATHER FULL TASS SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S AUGUST 5 STATEMENT, INCLUDING PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSION OF DEEP REGRET OVER PROVIDING INCOMPLETE AND INCORRECT INFORMATION ON WATERGATE AFFAIR, HIS RECOGNITION THAT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL MADE PUBLIC MIGHT HARM HIS CASE, HIS IMPRESSION THAT HOUSE VOTE FOR IMPEACHMENT IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION, AND HIS CONVICTION THAT MATERIALS AS A WHOLE DO NOT JUSTIFY SUCH EXTREME STEP AS IMPEACHMENT AND SUSPENSION (SIC) FROM OFFICE. EVENING TV NEWS AUGUST 6 FEATURED READING OF ESSENTIALLY SAME TASS TEXT. NEITHER INCLUDED ANY COMMENTARY.

2. PRAVDA, ON OPPOSITE PAGE, PRINTS LONG ARTICLE BY PROFESSOR N. LEBEDEV ON "FUNDAMENTAL RESTRUCTURING OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS," WHICH ARGUES FAMILIAR SOVIET VIEW THAT DETENTE IS NOT TEMPORARY PHENOMENON, CYCLICAL IDEA, OR TACTICAL DEVICE BUT RATHER BEGINNING OF FUNDAMENTAL RESTRUCTURING OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MADE POSSIBLE BY SHIFT IN STRENGTH IN FAVOR OF SOCIALIST CAMP. ARTICLE, IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNMISTAKABLE REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S SITUATION, CONTAINS FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "THIS RESTRUCTURING, THE TENDENCY

TOWARD PEACE AND SECURITY, IS DICTATED NOT BY THE INTEREST AND DESIRES OF PARTICULAR PERSONALITIES, BUT BY OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS AND BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION'S DEVELOPMENT."

3. WITHOUT MENTIONING IMPEACHMENT MATTER DIRECTLY, ENGLISH TASS AUGUST 7 BRIEFLY REPORTS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT AFTER "EMERGENCY MEETING OF U.S. GOVERNMENT" THAT NO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE ANY DOUBTS RE CONDUCT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH WILL BE PURSUED ON BIPARTISAN BASIS IN INTERESTS OF NATION AND WORLD PEACE WITH MAXIMUM SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO LIMIT INFORMATION RE PRESIDENT NIXON'S PREDICAMENT TO STATEMENTS BY WHITE HOUSE OR OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS. EVEN THESE, HOWEVER, DO BY NOW INDICATE TO SOVIET READER SERIOUSNESS OF POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE.
STOESSEL

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